

# **Adverse Weather - Emergency Closure Policy**

We understand the needs of working parents and do not aim to close the Ganim unnecessarily. We appreciate that a decision to close due to adverse weather may have a significant effect on families.

Many staff travel some distance to reach the Ganim and we do not wish for parents, children or staff to be put at risk due to hazardous journeys. This makes the decision to close more complicated as conditions vary considerably in different areas. In addition, snow does not always fall at a time which fits in conveniently with decisions that need to be made in the morning. We must consider the journey to the Ganim as well as the safe return home along with the criteria listed below.

## **How we make our decision?**

The decision to close the Ganim in severe weather is not taken lightly and is based on analysis of all relevant factors, such as:

- Advice from Hertfordshire County Council
- Enough staff for safe and legal supervision.
- Information on road conditions from transportation staff and from the police in order that staff and children can arrive and return home safely.
- The amount of snow and ice accumulated.
- Building conditions (such as whether we have adequate electricity and heat)
- Car parking conditions.
- Temperature.
- Weather predictions

If the decision is made to stay open but not enough staff arrive for adequate supervision, reluctantly, a late decision may be taken to turn children away in the interests of their safety.

If the weather deteriorates during the course of the day, a decision may be made to call parents to collect their children.

## **Who makes the decision?**

The decision is made by the Head and Chair of the Ganim Management Committee using the above criteria.

## **How do we notify parents?**

In the event that a decision is made to close the Ganim, a notification will be posted on the website's home page by 7.30am on the morning of closure.

**Please do not call the Gan to ask if we are open. The Ganim website should ALWAYS be the first place to check for information during bad weather.**